Wellesley College News

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STUDENTS DESIRE DRAMATICS COURSE

Want Curriculum To Offer Opportunities For Experimenting

THEATRE IS SUGGESTED

True to his promise the Inquiring Reporter pursues his earnest way, heedless of the burnt fingers to be acquired from handling inflammable queries. This week's:—*What are your opinions about the establishment of courses in experimental theatre work at Wellesley?* Ruth Stephens, 1930—I feel very strongly that such courses should be instituted here as part of the academic curriculum to afford fuller opportunity for those seriously interested in dramatic work, particularly the various aspects of production. Students should not be allowed to major in such a field, as that would bring the undesirable element of professionalism into college work; but earnest study in the experimental theatre line would be of great value in not only supplementing but acting as a link between the Departments of Art, English Composition, and Reading and Speaking. Requirements for this course, to limit it to students seriously interested, would have to be rigorous—recommendation from the head of one of the departments perhaps being necessary. While students in this field would undoubtedly be of great assistance to Barn productions, no governing link should exist between the academic and the extra-curricular dramatic work—Barn would still offer to those interested, but not vitally, in the theatre the freedom and fun of amateur efforts.

Katherine King, 1930—Wellesley is rather far behind other colleges in dramatic work, and the introduction of a course in production would help to advance its progress in this line, as well as being of really practical worth to the students concerned. Of course, to make experimental theatre work of any value to the people engaged in it, a director with professional experience would be needed, especially in the initial stages of such an undertaking.

Virginia Thayer, 1931—A course in production is really much needed, to give the students who are anxious to learn something about production methods a fair chance for study and experiment—matters to which they can

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N. S. F. A. Plans Broadcasts Of Special Student Import

The National Student Federation of the United States of America, starting on January 3, will broadcast monthly a special program for students. These programs are to consist chiefly of addresses by men prominent in public affairs who have messages of importance both to college students and to the public.

This series of broadcasts is being put on the air through the courtesy of the Columbia Broadcasting system, Inc. over their national system of 52 stations. The N. S. F. A. feels that as a unifying force among the colleges this plan will be difficult to surpass. The first program of January 3 will consist of a talk by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Leland Stanford University, on the subject of "The American Students Responsibility of Citizenship in the Modern World." The music for the program will be songs by the quartet of the Yale University Glee Club.

Mrs. Masefield Speaks On a Social Historian

On the evening of November 11, Mrs. Muriel Masefield of Oxford gave a talk about the charming eighteenth century diarist, Fanny Burney, who moved in circle where studied grace and elegance of living were cultivated.

Though not born into high society, Fanny Burney represented literary circles there, and met the galaxy of eighteenth century figures who appear in her fiction and diary. As an attendant upon the Queen, she came in close contact with George III and his family, and gives a distinct characterization of the many princesses. Moving in circles frequented by the Duchess of Portland, Dr. Johnson, Edmund Burke, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sheridan, Garrick, and Mrs. Montagu, Fanny Burney "tried to achieve the ideal delicacy of female behaviour."

Writing Considered Unladylike

Mrs. Masefield gave a delightful picture of Fanny burning, at the age of fifteen, all her literary efforts, because her aunt thought writing an unfeminine occupation. When fame came to her she was delighted, but also shocked. Mrs. Masefield said that the clue to Fanny Burney's pose was to be found in her delight at the Queen's statement that the authoress was "too delicate to write for the stage." She had the task of proving that the woman who writes is not necessarily brazen, since before the publication of *Evelina*, there were few novels that a woman could unblushingly say that she had even read.

Fanny Burney's works are especially delightful in their reproduction of types of her day, said Mrs. Masefield. She pictures the last phase of the governing aristocracy of England,—the country gentleman who expected to sit in Parliament if he wanted to, a leisurely class of people like that of the fifth century B. C. in Athens. They were, as Mrs. Masefield put it, "an irridescent foam on the surface of eighteenth century waters." For example Mr. Thrale would not allow Mrs. Thrale to have anything to do with the management of her house for fear that it might blunt her wit.

Fop and Languishing Female Portrayed

Mrs. Masefield mentioned the type pictured by Fanny Burney, illustrating her points with amusing quotations. There is the beau and fop, in the persons of Lord Orville, Sir Clement, and Sir Sedley, indifferent to an extreme but not greatly exaggerated, since in her diary the authoress mentions men very like them. Another type that Fanny Burney pictures is the languishing female. There is Indiana, who has been taught to nourish every fear as becoming, a quality that makes her fascinating to a young Oxonian. That Fanny Burney was not exaggerating is shown by Lady Hawk of her diary—sweet, pathetic, delicate, the author of *Mausoleum of a Lady*. Dicken's Mrs. Wititttily is a descendant of this type.

One of Fanny Burney's most attractive portraits is that of her husband, with whom she lived the romance that she inculcated into her heroines.

Mrs. Masefield considers that the right approach to Fanny Burney is to consider her a social historian, who must be allowed to stage her scene, rather than to analyze her art from a fastidious artistic point of view. Though not very literary, she represents the eighteenth century cultivation of inherent qualities.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Everybody Registered by 12:30 January 8

COMING EVENTS

On Friday evening, January 10, Miss Ferguson of the Botany Department will give a lecture on *Forestry*. This lecture is the second of evening lectures in the regular 101 Botany course; the first was given on Monday evening, December 16, and was on the subject of *Forests*. The coming lecture will begin at 7.30 o'clock and is open to all. Although it is given for the Botany students, the problem of the forests and their preservation is an economic question of widespread interest.

On Sunday afternoon, January 12, Lady Clare Annesley of the British Labour Party will speak in Shakespeare on "The Labour Party and World Peace." Tea will be served at 3.30, and the talk will be given promptly at 4.00. The lecture is sponsored by Christian Association and the Liberal Club.

E. H. Sothern Is To Appear Here In Reading In January

The Department of Reading and Speaking announces a reading from great plays, by E. H. Sothern, on Wednesday, January 15, 1930, in Alumnae Hall at 4.40 in the afternoon.

The department is glad to fulfill its obligation to the College by announcing that this recital is to take the place of the one that was postponed earlier in the season. The Sothern tickets purchased for the first reading will be accepted on January 15.

Tickets will be on sale at the El Table January 14, from one to four in the afternoon, and at the box office at the time of the recital. Single tickets are $1.00.

Edith Wynne Matthison Will Give Dramatic Reading Here

Edith Wynne Matthison, the well-known actress, will give a reading at Alumnae Hall on January 17. She will read the *Midea*, using Gilbert Murry's translation.

Edith Wynne Matthison has come to Wellesley several times in the last few years. Last year she appeared in her interpretation of *The Admiral*, a play written by her husband, Charles Rann Kennedy. Because of her beautifully smooth speaking voice and pure diction, two years ago she received the medal offered by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. This medal has been won by Otis Skinner and Walter Hampden in other years. It is this Academy of Arts and Letters which is sponsoring the contest to determine the best radio announcing voice.

Acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic as one of the foremost tragic actresses of our day, Mrs. Kennedy (Edith Wynne Matthison) has given many readings of Shakespearian roles and Greek tragedies, and often appears in plays written by Mr. Kennedy. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy work together, directing the department of drama at the Bennet School in Middlebrook, New York. Mr. Kennedy is known as joint author, actor and producer.

Elizabeth Bradstreet, 1930, Wins Journalistic Contest

The committee appointed to select the Wellesley candidate for the competition in journalism, sponsored by the *New York Herald-Tribune* and the Woman's Press Club of New York, announces as the successful contestant Miss Elizabeth Bradstreet, 1930.

Crisis Threatens In Nationalist Situation

China with her seething internal warfare figures daily on the American front page; but each succeeding Chinese battle seems to bring more confusion to foreign minds. What is it all about?

The present revolutionary condition in China started back in 1925 when Sun Yat Sen, popularly known as "China's Saviour," inaugurated a Nationalistic movement in Canton, in southern China, against the then Republican government; for he claimed that its tendencies were becoming dangerously imperialistic. But Sun Yat Sen died before he could carry out his plans and his place was taken by his chief aide and general, Chiang Kai Shek.

It is Chiang Kai Shek who then succeeded in overthrowing the Republic, whose capital was at Peking, and in establishing a Nationalist government of his own, with Nanking for the new capital; a government which has now lasted for two years. Chiang does not call himself president of the country, but declares himself head of the National Committee.

Position Perilous

But his position is perilous, for he controls only a small section of China centering around Nanking and Shanghai, that is, the Yangtze River basin. To his north is Chang Hsueh Liang, the hostile governor of the fertile province of Manchuria, a province coveted by two nations, Russia and Japan, and insecurely held by another, China. To his north-east and east, the ward lords Feng Yu Hsing and Yen Hsi Shan hold the provinces of Honan, Shansi, and Kansu.

These two are, at present, bribed to a standstill. Chiang continues to placate them with his "silver bullets," while Manchuria is as yet too worried over Russia to be of any immediate danger to the Nationalistic government.

The present crisis centers therefore to the southeast and south of the Yangtze River basin. From Hankow, General Tang Sen Chi, once of the Nationalist party but at present a convert to communism, is leading rebel troops against the capital, Nanking. This past week, of December 7 to 14, has seen the complete evacuation of Nanking by foreigners, always a danger signal; but in spite of expectations to the contrary the Nationalists are holding out and have even repulsed the rebels in at least one recent attack on their capital.

Peasant Support

Near Canton, in the south, a fourth war lord, Chang Fa-Kwei, who is supported by the peasant element of China, is leading his famous "Iron Side Division" rebels against Canton. He, too, suffered defeat at the hands of Chiang's soldiers this past week.

Thus China struggles. Chiang Kai Shek, who stands at the head of the prosperous bourgeoisie, cannot unify the country because he cannot completely subdue the hostile factions that surround him. Feudal barons, communism, the peasantry, all have their grievances and their leaders. Their war lords may be bought or beaten into passivity but they are not eliminated. They continue to rule their districts and exclude Nanking's authority.

Then too China has her foreign troubles. Japan, England, and France each has its well-defined sphere of influence. The United States alone has none. She is interested more in the natural wealth of China than in trade as are the other powers. Furthermore, the duties on the trade which the United States does carry on with China, are less under the government

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M. DE LOREY TALKS ON ISLAM MOSAICS

Described Finding of Mosaics of Rare Beauty in Damascus at Mosque of Walid I

TELLS OF DIFFICULTY

M. de Lorey, formerly of the French diplomatic service, and now in charge of the French Institute of Islamic Art and Archaeology in Damascus, lectured on his recent discoveries, on Tuesday evening, December 10, in Alumnae Hall. M. de Lorey has done much to increase the knowledge of Islamic art by his excavations, which have brought to light many interesting frescoes, copies of which are to be exhibited later in the year. One of his greatest works has been to preserve and restore the Palace Azem in Damascus, of which he showed two slides.

In his lecture M. de Lorey confined himself to a description of the mosaics which he uncovered in the Mosque in Damascus.

He began with an outline of the history of the site of the Mosque on which has been originally a Roman temple to Jupiter Damascenus, built by Septimus Severus and Caraculla, of which only three columns and part of the pediment are still standing. In the fifth century, Theodosius built a Christian church with a large courtyard. In the early eighth century, Walid I domed the church and decorated the walls of the court yard. He decorated it gorgeously for political reasons: he wished to excel the Mosque Omar in Jerusalem and make Damascus a religious and commercial center. To show how well Walid succeeded, M. de Lorey read the glowing description of the Mosaics, written in 985 by Bodacci, who tells of the seventeen shiploads of gold, the precious jewels and the seven years' work which were spent on the mosaics.

After the historical background, M. de Lorey told of his difficulties in raising sufficient money to begin the work of removing the plaster from the walls of the courtyard and of his success in 1928, when he uncovered a panel 115x24 feet on the west side of the court. Now he has 2600 so. ft. uncovered.

He explained the method of making mosaics and of placing the tesseri or small square cubes of colored glass in the damp layer of fine, smooth plaster which coated the rougher plaster of the walls. This made clear how deli-

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Friendly Society To Hold Christmas Ball At Alumnae

As the twelve-thirty bell on Thursday sounds our release from bondage, we screw up our fountain pens and close our books with a joyful bang and hie ourselves to the station; Wellesley is deserted, left alone for three short weeks, untenanted except by shadows and ghosts. Alumnae Hall, however, before being abandoned to its memories and dreams, will be the scene of one more festivity before January 8. The occasion is the Annual Charity Ball, given by the Wellesley Friendly Aid Society, which is a local charitable organization supported entirely by voluntary contributions from the townspeople. Billy Boyle's orchestra will play, and in the intermission will give several specialty acts, featuring an accordion player and some vocal numbers. Refreshments will be served during the evening. The dance is open to the general public, the tickets being $5.00 a couple and $3.00 for stags.

MR. PEABODY DESCRIBES TRAGIC FATE OF YELLOW FEVER HEROES

The noble sacrifices which were made by those men who sought to prove the cause of yellow fever have been known for many years. After hearing the talk given by Mr. Peabody of the Morris High School in New York City, in Agora on Monday, December 9, the true extent of their bravery was evident. Using slides, which showed pictures of the men at the time of the Yellow Fever Campaign, and facts which he has gathered in the last few years, Mr. Peabody succeeded in giving a remarkably clear idea of the aims and achievements of the heroes in this fight against one of the world's deadly enemies.

Briefly, Mr. Peabody traced the history of yellow fever, showing its origin in Africa and its transmission to Cuba by the slave ships. From the island the fatal mosquito traveled into the Southern United States and up as far as Boston. Because its presence caused a huge number of deaths during the Spanish American War, the United States became interested in the study of the disease, and the commission began its work late in the summer of 1900.

By December 31 of the same year, every fact was known, due to the perseverance and bravery of the men concerned. The relation of the mosquito to the spread of the disease had been suspected by one far-seeing scientist, Carroll and Reed established their camp outside of the city, building two wooden shacks. By offering $100 to every man who would submit himself to the test and $500 to every one who became ill, the leaders of the camp managed to find enough people who were willing to risk their lives. Some of these men submitted themselves to the most horrible kind of experience, when they volunteered to spend twenty nights, sleeping in clothing and beds which had been occupied by men and women who had died from the disease.

The results of these experiments are known to everyone—the tragic death of Dr. Lazear, which proved forever the fatality of the mosquito bite. The consequences to the subjects of the experiments are not, however, so well known. The widows of the men who died while they were still in Cuba are living in miserably depressing conditions of poverty, while most of the men who volunteered but recovered have been too weakened to make a strong fight in the business world. These people have all been receiving the munificient pension of $100 monthly; a group has now begun working to raise this insignificant sum to $250, and in conclusion Mr. Peabody urged everyone to learn the number of the bill, as soon as it is decided, and to write to State Congressmen petitioning them to support this worth-while measure.

VOCATIONAL FIELD TRIP

The problems of her course of life after she leaves college is of great importance to the senior. This year the Vocational Bureau, in addition to its usual program of lectures, offers a series of field trips in order that the seniors may see the practical application and actual operation in fields in which they are interested. The first trip was to the Massachusetts General Hospital, where they saw at first hand many of the types of work offered by hospitals. In January, there will be a trip to the Editorial offices of Ginn and Company for those interested in the editing and publishing of books. Later there will be a visit to Hathaway House Book Shop to study the methods used there. In the spring, those interested in law, politics, and public service will be given the opportunity to attend the Massachusetts State Legislature in session at the Boston State House.

The lectures given under the direction of the college departments include Education, Music, Science, and Mathematics, as well as one by Dr. Burges Johnson, now Professor of English and Director of Public Relations at Syracuse University, on *Earning a Living by the Pen.*

STUDENTS DESIRE DRAMATICS COURSE

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not now afford to turn very thorough attention. Such a course would act as a laboratory for the concrete application of principles and theories set forth by other departments, such as Art and English Composition—a true combination of the cultural and the practical. The study of production would inevitably benefit the college as a whole, for the experience gained from working out problems under direction would reflect itself in Barn presentations, affecting not only those taking part, but also the general enjoyment of the audience. Wellesley would be able to do better work in the field of the theatre, yet avoid professionalism.

Mary L. Stix, 1931—I think a course in production is wanted, not a whole experimental theatre. With the latter, the college at large would have no chance to take part in dramatics, as it would tend to overshadow if not supplant the less restricted but less technically perfect extra-curricular organization. Professionalism cuts out the college as a whole—Vassar has found that its system is too exclusive; but a course in production would have none of this danger.

Victoria Eisenberg, 1932—If plays are going to be given, they should be given well, and for this reason, Wellesley, which is behind other colleges in its dramatic achievements, needs an experimental theatre. I do not think the actors in such a theatre should be confined to any small group, but that the courses in production should be open only to a limited number juniors and seniors, with prerequisites, so that many students would be able to benefit from this institution. The theatre is now a great art, the medium of cultured minds, and study is needed to appreciate its developments. It seems to me quite as essential to keep in step with modern culture as with classical.

M. DE LOREY TALKS ON ISLAM MOSAICS

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cate the task of removing the outer coating of stucco is. M. de Lorcy had a group of trained workmen who were most successful, and worked very rapidly.

The part of the lecture which M. de Lorey enjoyed most was the detailed description of the mosaics themselves. He showed first the separate fragments, which had arches and classical scrolls. He then showed and explained the large panel on the west wall, which has a border of peacock feathers and acanthus leaves. The scene on the panel is of trees and buildings. The trees are most lovely and clearly differentiated to represent walnut, apple, and cyprus. At the bottom of the scene runs a river with billowy water which gives an actual sense of movement. The houses are interesting in showing all the different types of architecture.

These mosaics are especially interesting, for although the other mosaics of the region are distinctly Byzantine, these show influences of Alexandria in the naturalistic treatment of the trees and background and the feeling for form. This is interesting in connection with Miss Avery's discoveries at S. Maria Antiqua, where she found a distinct Alexandrian influence in the frescoes of the eighth century, which are contemporary. These mosaics therefore substantiate Miss Avery's conclusion that in the late seventh and eighth centuries, after the Mohammedans established themselves in Alexandria, there was a wave of Alexandrian influence carried by the workmen who left the captured city.

M. de Lorey concluded by giving the arguments based on style for the attribution of these mosaics to Walid I and showed how at no other time was found such a combination of Alexandrian and Byzantine styles.

ENGLISH FOLK DANCING CLASS WILL BEGIN AFTER CHRISTMAS

After the Christmas holidays a class in Country Dancing will be held in Agora every Monday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 for a series of ten lessons. The class, which will begin on January 13, will be open to members of the faculty and graduate students. The fee is to be $7.50 to $10.00, depending on how many sign up. All who are interested are asked to notify Miss Mildred C. Stone, 1915, whose telephone number is Wellesley 1765-M, or to write Care of the English Folk Dance Society, 87 Beacon Street, Boston. Miss Louise Chapin, head teacher of the Boston Branch, is to take charge of the class.

Country Dancing is not new—some of the dances date back to 1650. The dances and music are both authentic, each dance having its individual air, collected and restored to general use by the painstaking effort of the late Cecil Sharp.

English folk dancing was introduced in recent years to the United States through the efforts of Mrs. James J. Storrow by one of Mr. Sharp's prize students, Mrs. R. K. Conant, now director of the Boston Branch of the English Folk Dance Society. It has been acquiring many interested followers.

COLLEGE GIRLS DEVISE OWN METHODS FOR COUNTING TIME

Whoever maintains that college girls are not enterprising, should pause and consider the ingenious devices their active minds invent for the pursuit of a subject in which their interest is keen—that is, the scientific indexing of the time that remains until Christmas vacation, expressed in any unit convenient to the recorder.

These devices are not only curious and original but are often indicative of the interests of the girl. Statistics prove that nine out of ten students who are majoring in mathematics have constructed charts that show in detail the exact time in hours, minutes, and seconds, until their respective train pulls out of the station. For example, one girl is leaving for the west on the one o'clock special. At one o'clock Saturday noon she crossed out the 432001*th* second, leaving only 432000 seconds until the desired time. These schedules form a source of amusement to relieve any boredom felt in the rush of the last few days. Students claim that few pleasures can equal that of returning from a class and actually crossing out 3600 seconds.

Not only is the accuracy of the calculations amazing to the unitiated, but the artistry and elaboration of the charts form a fitting setting for the valuable information contained therein. Fantastic designs surround circles representing seconds on one chart. On another the seconds are arranged around a sundial, at least it appeared to be a sundial, for it had "tempus fugit" scrawled ironically across the bottom.

Many girls still use the good old-fashioned paper doll method. A sophomore had sailors standing erect in a row. Each morning she pulled off one. This method is all right for those who can content themselves with generalities. For those who must have more specific data, it is not adequate.

Another interesting way of recording the remaining days is the stocking method. For those who are fortunate enough to have say five pairs of clean stockings left five days before they leave for home, this method is excellent and quite simple. It is necessary to wear a clean pair of stockings on each of the remaining days. The number left each morning will then equal the remaining days.

This intensive research goes to prove that the college girl is a person of indefatigable energy and optimistic spirit.

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OFF AND ON

OFF CAMPUS

For the last three years, the University of Wisconsin has had an "experimental college" under the direction of Dr. Alexander Meikeljohn, one time president of Amherst. This movement, which is a new departure in educational methods, depends on student interest for its success. The object is to awaken the students intellectually by concentrated study of all phases of some subject. Progress is left entirely to individual initiative, as there are no experiments or "quiz sections," and class attendance is optional. The reports of the experiment's success are conflicting. A few days ago, Glenn Frank, President of the University, had apparently planned to use the methods of the "experimental college" on the whole University. The more recent accounts, however, hint at a disagreement between Dr. Meikeljohn and President Frank, and seem to indicate that the latter wants to abolish the test school.

The New York Times suggests ways and means of surviving even the Wall Street panic without a murmur. Examples are cited of cases in which a remarkable ability to cash compassion has brought people through what might have been overwhelming difficulties. One crippled woman was so successful in the begging trade that she often earned as much as $25 daily, finally amassing a small fortune, by means of which she maintained an apartment in mid-town, a maid, and two youths to wheel her about and keep her comfortable while she was at home. An Englishman, by means of a well-fabricated hard-luck story, succeeded in gathering together more than he had lost through a bank failure. One is afraid to speculate on what disastrous results might have occurred had these stories been known a few weeks ago.

Embowered lamp posts is the latest suggestion for the beautification of New York City. This method of civic horticulture has been tried and approved in Minneapolis, but one wonders just what is done in cold weather. And even more one wonders just what would be the reaction of the motorist, pictured in *The New York Times*, who would crash into one of these aesthetically satisfying new lamp-posts, to be showered by a heterogeneous mass of ornamental bronze flower pots.

While there are stars, there is hope, and even the astronomy professors will some day have their opportunity of quizzing aspirants for the doctor's degree. For the first time in thirty-four years a candidate for the doctor's degree in astronomy presented his thesis to Copenhagen University on December 12.

A note of sympathy and kindliness characterizes the Congress of the United States, unexpected as that announcement may seem. Repentant for an action which Speaker Longworth characterized as "very bad taste," it voted to delete "applause" from the Monday issue of the Congressional Record, in that section which describes the reaction to the remark of Representative Huddleston that the Haitens would like to slash President Borno "to pieces."

At last! One can be perfectly sure that one is breaking the law. One need have no unnecessary qualms as to the place where he is eating and drinking. In the Federal Court in Brooklyn the Assistant United States Attorney discovered that there are places and places for the sale of liquor. It was ascertained that a store in question had a bar. The defendant claimed that it had not a bar but a counter.

"Was there a brass rail before the counter?" queried Judge Byers.

Upon receiving no for an answer, he decided that it was a counter. Which means that it did not have the requisites of a speak-easy.

ON CAMPUS

The Liberal Club had a supper meeting at Agora on Friday evening at 6:00, Miss Orvis and Miss Donnan were present, and discussion ranged from Russia to Reason.

Miss Tufts and Miss McGregor, Head of Tower Court, entertained about two hundred guests at tea from 4 to 5:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon. With the assistance of some of the house officers, they received in the great hall of Tower. As a most delightful surprise, some members of the college choir sang a few Christmas carols from the balcony.

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the dorms, all people were stirring and packing their trunks. Yet they found time, in one of their busiest periods of the year, to have Christmas dinners and parties.

Stone-Davis had a formal dinner Tuesday night, during which each girl received a costly gift (price 10c) accompanied by an appropriate poem. After dinner there was dancing in the gayly decorated living rooms.

On Monday night in Tower Court the juniors entertained after dinner with the St. George Masque. It was cleverly presented in the great hall in front of the fireplace, which supplied the only light in the room. Novelty in the decorations was lent by the ribbon which Miss McGregor's family used for years, and which she now generously employs in Tower.

Severance, also on Monday night, had an Old English Christmas party during dinner. The entertainers presented a masque, sang carols, and carried a boar's head around the room for all to see.

Out of an amirably well-dressed group of dolls, exhibited at T. Z. E. House last Thursday, the prize for the best dressed went to an infant in knitted cap, sweater, and booties, and the prize for the most original was accorded to Margaret Stirling '30, who had dressed a pair of twins in blue sweater outfits, including berets and mittens, and tan coats. Mrs. Ewing and Mr. Zigler, assisted by Miss Betty Jane Zigler and Josephine Maghee, '30, were the judges.

Many of the costumes exhibited originality and gave evidence of time and thought spent on them. Among the foreign representatives were an Albanian, a Japanese, and a pair of Dutch twins. One of the youngsters was provided with a hand-painted picture-book so that while she was waiting to be judged she could amuse herself by looking at giraffes and birds. Another thoughtful provision were the overnight bags which some of the dolls possessed. One doll, probably inclined to dancing, wore her ballet costume of tulle decorated in silver stars.

CRISIS THREATENS IN NATIONALIST SITUATION

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of that country than when subject to the control of the European powers.

Washington consequently favors Chinese unity. Britain, France, and Japan oppose it. They would oppose anything that threatens to unite China and thereby weakens their regional footholds.

Thus China has foreign influences pulling her apart from without and internal rivalries ravaging her within. She is five or six centuries behind Europe in government, for she has not yet completed her transformation from a medieval into a modern state. And "old China hands" predict a lapse of from one to three generations before suh a change is really complete.

SOCIETY PROGRAM MEETINGS

ZETA ALPHA

Zeta Alpha members first feasted and then, as a part of their study of Barrie and A. A. Milne this year, presented James Barrie's *Half an Hour*, in their program meeting held Wednesday, December 11. Only one week is allowed for rehearsals, a fact which is not conducive to finished performances, but the cast expressed its enjoyment of the mad rush of whipping the play into shape for presentation.

The cast was:

Garson .....Kathryn Zumbro
Lady Lillian .....Julia Van Gorder
Hugh Paton .....Eleanor Cole
Mr. Redding .....Helen Greene
Mrs. Redding .....Frances Pishon
Sally .....Elizabeth Pitts
Withers, the butler ....Barbara Taylor

SHAKESPEARE

Three scenes from as many Shakespearian plays, showing the playwright's use of disguise and how it complicated the plot, were presented in the Shakespeare program meeting Wednesday evening, December 11.

The cast for *Twelfth Night* included:

Duke .....Mary Butler
Viola .....Margaret Fraser
Antonio .....Jane Hemingway
Olivia .....Pauline Humeston
Attendant .....Jean Byington
Priest .....Beatrice Cox

Those who played in *As You Like It* were:

Orlando .....Katherine King
Rosalind .....Elizabeth Patterson
Celia .....Jean Byington

In *Much Ado About Nothing* the players were:

Beatrice .....Edith Kennelly
Sebastian .....Mary Scarborough
Antonio .....Betty Dixon
Ursula .....Jean Byington

Others characters were portrayed by Betty Knode and Margot Bell.

PHI SIGMA

Stones, especially the magic variety connected with folk-lore and typified by Stonehenge in England, were discussed by Mrs. Laura H. Loomis, Professor of English Literature, in a program meeting of Phi Sigma Wednesday, December 11. Mrs. Loomis, whose specialty is Arthurian and romantic legends, spoke informally upon this subject, which is related to Phi Sigma's study of folk-lore.

LIBERAL CLUB ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR JANUARY MEETINGS

Immediately after vacation Liberal Club will hold two interesting meetings, and it urges the colleges to endeavor to remember the dates when they return weary and dazed from vacation. The first meeting is on Sunday afternoon, January 12, when there will be a tea at Shakespeare, sponsored also by Christian Association, at which Lady Clare Annesley of the British Labour Party will talk on "The Labour Party and World Peace."

The second meeting will be on the following week, either Thursday or Friday. It will be under the auspices of the Liberal Club, that the Massachusetts Leagues of Women Voters may organize a group in the college. The League of Women Voters is a national, state, and local organization, in forty-five states of the Union, and in many colleges and universities. The League presents authoritative information necessary to help any girl to vote intelligently and to carry on her part of citizenship. Progressive measures of legislation are supported throughout the country by the League only after they have been placed on the National program for two years' study and have been accepted. Ballot-marking classes, Citizenship Schools, Jury Service for Women, Better Labor Laws for Women, and the field of International Co-operation to Prevent War are some of the outstanding points in the League's program.

There will be a speaker from the State Office of the League of Women Voters to discuss the winter's legislative program and plans for organization, which tentatively outline a Wellesley College League with a restricted number of thirty members. All upper classmen are invited to attend!

[E. T. Slattery Co.]

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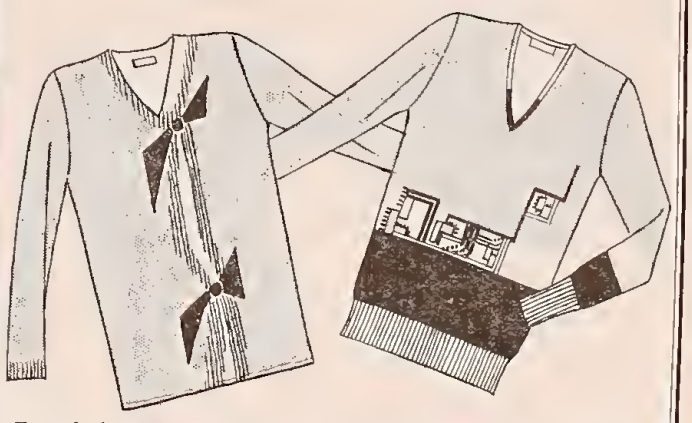

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WELLESLEY COLLEGE NEWS

WELLESLEY, MASS., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1929

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VACATION?

There are various explanations for vacation but the most logical and official is that all work and no play have dire results while a rest to mind and eyes are correspondingly beneficial.

That a quiz just before vacation is the most convenient way to tie up completed work is understandable, but that one returns to concentrated reviewing for mid-years has become an institution. But each year the "convenience" of using the Christmas vacation as a date-mark for term papers, monthly papers, and special papers, as well as quizzes and reports of every nature has become more evident to the faculty. Those who announce theirs first, find sufficient student coöperation. Those less fortunate are met with protests from their burdened classes but, justly to be sure, they usually remain adamant. However, the result is an amount of work at this time that keeps any of it from receiving due time and thought. The papers due after the holidays must be done at home,—and the purpose of vacation is defeated.

The dates for all social events in Wellesley are submitted to a committee and approved by Senate so that conflicts will not occur. Conflicts in academic work are far more serious. If some of this care were taken to regulate them, it might be more in keeping with the purpose of college as well as of vacation.

TEMPORARY ISOLATION

From all sides one hears the stigma cast on girls' colleges that they are isolated communities in which one is sequestered unnaturally for four years at the time when one should be forming social ties, or community consciousness. Surely there is no more direct way of discovering the validity of this claim than by analyzing the present situation. To begin with, a number of college girls do not leave to go out into the great outside world. They merely pass from one college community to another unless they go into university teaching. Consequently, their preparation here is eminently suited to their after life. Others leave college and marry before they have much time to find and try to meet the outer conditions. Then they spend some ten or so years in starting a family and by the time the family is no longer the foremost problem, they turn to the community. Their four years of college have left a residue in consciousness, though it may be difficult to unearth it. The best thing college gave them was the ability to think a little more directly, with a little less effort than some people who had neither natural ability nor the opportunity for training their mental processes. Consequently, they can try to approach community problems from a rational point of view and will be none the worse for their college isolation.

Others, those who neither teach nor marry, those who set out for careers in the business or artistic world have profited less. They have acquired no direct manner with which to approach business problems. They must gain a new kind of poise, dliffering from the collegiate assurance, more dignified and more humble. They have had an opportunity for fostering their individuality at college. But the struggle has been one against personalities, not against economic factors. They have felt free to develop their tastes, their culture, their intellects. But they have not learned to face the reality of life, the reality of economic issues. The issues they face in college are comparatively separate from any they will again face, so that they give little assistance in forming residue for right action outside.

What are the issues in college? They are of three sorts. Academic problems, social problems, and the combination of the two that will give the most satisfaction to the individual. Academic problems develop intellectual taste, form intellectual habits. These can be carried out of college. Social problems, the problems that come up in the attempt to adapt oneself to one's environment, also have habit-responses. But out of college, one is never faced with the same problems of adaptation. This is where criticism can thrust its greatest wedge into the college community. The ability to work and play, the combination of issues, the coordination of time and activities both mental and physical, teach one to lead a balanced life. This desire to continue to live a balanced life will hang over, although the qualities to be balanced will never be the same again.

From this analysis, it follows that for a great number of the college community, college does supply unnatural situations which will be met here, but in no other place. College life is ideal in the sense that it is not real. Education, yes, absolutely. But universities in large cities, provide courses which can develop the intellect without diminishing the social worth of the college individual.

ACTIVE PEACE INTEREST

Not since the dim far away days when the Armistice was signed, has the World War seemed as close as it has this year. During the summer we read *All Quiet on the Western Front;* then we came back this fall and saw *Journey's End*. No one could possibly help being impressed, stirred emotionally, and set to questioning.

But that temporary reaction is as far as we usually go. We shudder appropriately, try to make some clever remark on the ghastly futility of all war, and then let the matter drop. After that most of us are indifferent. In theory we hate war, but another one seems so impossible that we hardly bother to worry about it. We were too young to remember much of the last, though we have naturally inherited a bitter though general hatred of all war.

But our hatred is a negative thing; we do little positively for peace. Rather indefinitely we college people will talk against war, but we apparently have but little real knowledge and appreciation for the peace movements which are now going on in the world. Most of us, at least, know little of the treaties and pacts which are being developed for our protection.

Some one will object that international affairs are too vast a subject for college students. Never are they too big to be considered and discussed. Peace is not too large a subject for college people to work definitely for. Yet what have we done about it? Even the mere ceremony of Armistice Day was nonchalantly observed by most of us, and all year we have had no speakers on the topic of world peace. Yet it is one of the all important problems in the world today.

Of what value is student opinion in such a question? It is of greatest value, more than we in college realize. What we think here is going to influence us all the rest of our lives. Why not then, start thinking now for peace? An interesting series of articles in the December issue of the *Intercollegian* has several good suggestions for peace movements in the colleges. Its most valuable suggestion, however, is that whatever attitude we do take in college on this question of peace, "it is going vitally to matter."

SENATE EXPLAINS LATE PERMISSION

In view of the petition proposing "that undergraduate students of Wellesley college be allowed to remain outside the town of Wellesley without a chaperon until 12 o'clock Saturday night, providing they have an escort and providing their plans have been approved by the heads of houses"; Senate has passed the following regulation: "A senior may apply to the Dean of residence for permission to be absent without a chaperon after 10:00 P.M. Such permission will be considered for Saturday nights only."

Since 720 students signed this petition we feel that Senate's reasons for differing in part with the request should be more fully placed before the student body than was done in the NEWS report of the meeting.

It was decided that setting a limit of 12 o'clock for the late permission was unwise in that some theaters, etc., would not close in time to enable students to remain to the end and yet return to Wellesley by 12. Therefore, Senate preferred to leave the hour of return indefinite, to be decided according to the particular case.

The petition asked only for girls with escorts to have this permission. Senate felt that the opportunity for girls to go to the theatre, etc., in groups without escorts was one of the main advantages of the idea. Therefore, nothing definite was said about the escort or size of the group, leaving all such arrangements to be made individually with the approval of the Dean of Residence.

It was the opinion of the Senate that it would be unwise certainly for freshmen to have this privilege. It was also felt that with any new rule unexpected complications in administering it are apt to arise which are simply corrected if just a small group is involved. Therefore, it was made a special senior privilege and an opportunity for seniors to accept the responsibility of planning their time.

The students petitioning wanted to have the Heads of Houses give the late permision. Since it is hard to have a uniform policy of granting these permissions unless all are made from one central place, Senate preferred to have all requests go to the Dean of Residence.

The rule, then, is a flexible one, ready to be adjusted to individual cases.

Margaret A. Clapp.

Free Press Column

All contributions for this column must be signed with the full name of the author. Initials or numerals will be used if the writer so desires.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions and statements in this column.

Contributions should be in the hands of the Editors by 10 A. M. on Sunday.

TWO LUMPS AND A SLICE OF LEMON

To the Wellesley College News:

There seems to be a wave of interest in foreign affairs, foreign students, and youth movements. An interest which is unfortunately limited to an anxious and worried discussion of how really to be interested and get everyone else thinking about these problems; peace and the world at large; the international point of view is what is wanted, but found lacking.

The college has undoubtedly enough organizations to foster any sporadic growths of internationalism, but evidently not enough people. C. A., Liberal Club, Cosmopolitan Club, Current Events on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons should be sufficient to give a real atmosphere of foreign interest to the college at large.

But all these are not successful; there is lassitude and ignorance on every side. We do not know the foreign students and we do not care. Discussions, the very word is enough to make us turn tail and never mention an international subject. In foreign universities, there is all the intellectual enterprise which we lack and lament, but we cannot inculcate it into our student life, unless we adopt the other habits of the Europeans. We shall not have understanding and world interests, until we adopt the English habit of stopping in at the tea shop and the continental custom of dropping in at the wine shop. All great movements have been stimulated by beverages. Let us remember that, and not be despondent, but drink more —tea.

A. E., '30.

UNREASONABLE RATIONS

To the Wellesley College News:

Five ccurses in Wellesley concern themselves either directly or indirectly with the matter of nutrition. Comparatively few people take those offered in chemistry and physiology, but almost every undergraduate has her experience with Hygiene 120. A good part of this course is spent in teaching freshmen what they should eat at each meal and the neccssity for correctly balanced meals. The course goes further usually in having the students submit menus for the approval of the instructor. In other words, every girl, by the time she lives on campus, has had instilled into her the idea that her protein, fat, and carbohydrate intake should be carefully balanced, that there should not be a preponderance of any one of these in her diet.

Thus far the college does nobly by the undergraduate in giving her a good theoretical knowledge of diet. But it is so deficient in its practise as to make the stress placed on the theory of diet rather ludicrous. Why spend hours teaching freshmen not to have a meal preponderant in starch and then place before her the well-known lunch of one of the Quad houses: Fried sausages, baked potatoes, bread and butter, griddle cakes and maple syrup. Is this the sort of meal that freshmen planned in their ideal menus? Does this represent the balanced diet that physicians recommend? In fact, is this meal anything for the college to be proud of?

I appeal for some sort of reform in the general planning of menus. Surely there is no need for skin, figures, and disposition to be upset by meals like this, and others of the same sort. Certainly 12:40 classes do not benefit from the presence of the people made drowsy by such a ridiculously heavy and unwisely planned meal.

1931.

Wellesley
massachusetts
United States of America

dear Santa,

I'm just a little Wellesley girl living out in the country west of Boston, but I want to be sure that you don't forget me, though my picture is in the papers all the time. I've been awfully good this year, I mean really and truly good. Haven't you noticed it? The place here has been so quiet; there haven't been any questions burning at all and no masses meeting. Oh, I've been so good, and there are so many things I do want for Christmas.

First of all I wish you'd take away that paper I have due the first day after vacation, and while you're doing that you might speak to the authorities, gently but firmly, Santa, about that general examination.

Then I'd like a pair of green gloves like Ev Pierce's, aren't they the nuts, and a pair of ear muffs. They're good for class wear. Then if you want to make me really happy, tell me some way of making my old dresses longer or my legs shorter, so that I can have a train on all my dresses too. With my skirts still short I feel positively undressed, really I do.

I wish you'd buy the Wellesley apple orchards so that we perhaps could have a different dessert, once in a while, maybe. You might look into the chicken situation also. Our egg lunches are becoming too much of a good thing.

And next semester I won't want any eight-forties, and no afternoon classes at all, you understand that, don't you? Please remember, and of course I'd like to have three free days at mid years for winter sports at Placid. I knew you'd agree to that.

And while I think of it, do give Barn something nice for Christmas. They've been awfully good lately.

I've just got a new idea! I wish you'd take some of my things home for me. My suitcase is jammed, and there's still that pottery elephant and the two books to go. I simply haven't any room left for them, and you won't mind tucking my overshoes in somewhere, will you? That's a dear boy. Santa there's one more thing I want a gardenia or two to wear home, that's all.

Imagine, I nearly forgot the most important things of all, that fur coat I've been wanting, and the trip to Bermuda. But you've heard me talk about those for some time haven't you? It's so nice that Santas are too far away to have anything to do with that awful stock market.

Sorry to be in such a hurry, but I'll write again soon.

Lilly Lou.

With the Usual Apologies

I think that I shall never like
A thing as dismal as a bike.

A bike whose rotten tires are flat,
Upon whose fenders girls have sat.

Poor bike! It looks at me all day
And lifts its handlebars to pray.

Its summer months are full of joy;
In winter, but a freshman toy

It lies near Founders' in the snow;
Through pluvial torrents it must go.

(Bikes are made by fools, and so
Only God can make them go.)

NEW YORK THEATRICAL SCENE

Berkeley Square, the delicate fantasy, in which Leslie Howard is starring, continues to run at the Lyceum Theatre, and has promise of a long run.

Bittersweet, Noel Coward's latest musical show, is still running at the Ziegfeld Theatre. The English company which is playing it, is headed by Evelyn Laye, the charming singer and actress.

Strictly Dishonorable, a comedy, or "what may happen to any nice girl in those haunts of ginthetic sin, the speak-easies," is amusing and well produced. It is playing at the Avon Theatre.

Mrs. Fiske, in *Ladies of the Jury,* gives an amusing performance in a clever, but unconvincing play, at the Erlanger.

Sweet Adeline, starring Helen Morgan and Charles Butterworth, is modeled on *Show Boat,* and offers pleasant entertainment at Hammerstein's Theatre.

Subway Express, a specially fancy murder in a subway train, gives lusty melodrama for those wishing thrills.

Broken Dishes, the comedy of a henpecked husband's revolt, is amusing American satire. Donald Meek is playing a leading role, and gives an excellent interpretation.

The Criminal Code is one of the outstanding serious plays of the season, effectively produced at the National Theatre.

Top Speed, a promising musical comedy, will be shown at Forty-sixth Street Theatre. This show, and *Walter* Hampden in *Richelieu,* will be offered on Christmas night.

Meteor, which had its world premier in Boston, will open at the Guild Theatre on December 23. This play, which doesn't give Lynn Fontaine much opportunity for displaying her abilities, however, is well worth seeing. The plot is unconvincing, because it wavers between fantasy and fact. Its merit depends entirely on the brilliant acting, not only of the leading characters, but the entire cast.

N. I. C., '32.

CAMPUS CRITIC

TORCH-BEARERS

Barnswallows "are to be congratulated" on their departure from the realms of symbolism and tragedy into that of pure farce in Fall Formals, December 13 and 14. *Torch-Bearers,* a flippant satire of the Little Theatre movement, is a play of no great merit, but it was good for an evening's entertainment with a large number of laughs, a considerable achievement. More credit is due to the actors than to the playwright, however. The play, while of a more sure-fire entertaining nature than some which might have been chosen, is not one which, like Barrie or Shaw, will put itself across of its own accord. Its success depended almost wholly on the cast, who rose to the occasion by giving an unusually good performance.

The extreme types of the farce were in general well chosen. Victoria Eisenburg as Mrs. Pampinelli, the amateur directress, demonstrated the "dramatic instinct" which formed so large a part of her conversation. Appearance, costume and gestures were deliciously appropriate to a type familiar to most of the audience. Julilly House, too, took naturally to the part of Mrs. Ritter, naïve sweet lady who aided the play within the play to go on despite any increase in the mortality of mere husbands. These two were well supported by those who had shorter roles. The part of Jenny, the Cockney maid, was among the most difficult of the character parts, as it called for complete disguise of voice and manner, and it was admirably filled by Natalie Burggraf. Mary Gage as Mr. Spindler, Mrs. Pampinelli's right hand, which was all too apt to fail in time of need, gave a diverting and natural interpretation.

The hilarious second act rather overshadowed the other two. While this act had rather more frequent opportunities for laughs, with the business of Mr. Spindler's alarm clock and Mr. Twiller's (Gladys Meyer) moustache, it is possible that a speeding of the tempo of the first and third acts might have lessened the contrast. Nowhere, however, was the action so slow as to be dull, and rumor has it that the tempo was improved on the second night of the performance.

The set for the first and third acts, the living-room of the Ritter home, was of a type generally styled "effective," yet it is rather hard to say in this case just what "effect" was aimed at and achieved. The scenery was cleverly designed, in excellent taste, and there is no doubt that the audience enjoyed looking at it; yet it contrasted with rather than stressed the character of Mrs. Ritter, its supposed author. Costumes, on the other hand, were more strictly suited to the characters, and colors were unobtrusively appropriate. The scarlet satin of the flamboyant Mrs. Pampinelli, and Mrs. Ritter's pastel shades were helpful in giving a clear impression of their characters.

E. U., '30.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert, Friday, December 13, in Billings Hall, introduced the College Chorus in a program with other music students. The first numbers were two organ preludes well played by Mary Heiss, '32. Marion Knoblauch, '30, then played two piano selections, the first an interesting modern composition by Ravel, the second the well-known Polonaise by MacDowell, both played with power and skill. Helen Holstein, '32, followed with a lovely Liszt selection.

The Chorus, led by Mr. Beveridge, made an excellent appearance. The French carol especially was delightfully done. Marcia Purmort, '30, then played *Introduction and Toccata* from Niemann and Sarah Supplee, '30, played the delightful *Ballade in A Flat* of Chopin. Ruth Bannister sang and the Chorus came back to give the final number, consisting of carols.

E. P., '32.

MISS GORDON TALKS OF BOOKS AS INTERESTING XMAS GIFTS

On Monday, December 9, Miss Gordon of Hathaway House spoke in Billings Hall on "Books as Christmas Gifts." She brought with her a few examples of unusual books and with these she began her talk. Many of the entrancing new books for wee children are from foreign countries. There is *Pelle's New Suit* from Germany, which has very delicate illustrations. Several books from Czechoslovakia have pictures in bright colors that would make one go look for a child to show them to. Those who still remember *Millions of Cats* will welcome *The Funny Thing* by Wanda Gag, and for small children who can't resist monkeys or crocodiles there is *A Monkey's Tale.* But one book must at least be glanced at among those for older children, and that is *Hitty—Her First Hundred Years.* This is the life story of a real doll, and begins with her life in Maine and goes on with her adventures in the South Seas where she becomes an Idol. During her career she returns to New York and on Fifth Avenue has a dramatic meeting with Charles Dickens.

In choosing a book for an older person Miss Gordon emphasized the importance of learning what their interests are. Thus for a huntsman one can find some charming collections of prints and a reprint of Anthony Trollope's *Hunting Sketches* would be very suitable. For people interested in history there is *Americana,* including biographies of Smith, Coolidge and Hanna. There is also Mark Van Doren's *Autobiography of America.* Numerous books on other phases of history are constantly tempting the reader and Clemenceau's last book and Whitlock's *Lafayette* and Katherine Anthony's *Queen Elizabeth* would be excellent gifts, not to mention the countless novels so popular now.

JOSE ITURBI

Thursday evening, December twelfth, the third concert of the Wellesley Series was given by José Iturbi who is considered the foremost pianist of Spain. This is the artist's first tour of America, although he is often heard in Europe. The programme was varied and displayed the performer's extensive abilities in technique, interpretation, and dynamics.

The most charming part of the programme was the opening Mozart *Sonata* in A Major No. 9. The variations in the first movement were quite delicate and lovely. Some of the ornamentation sounded incredibly like harpsichord music, which is quite an achievement in Mozart. The more stirring *Allegretto* gave some hint of the power which was to be brought forth in the next group.

The poetic Schumann *Arabesque* was quite warmly interpreted. The second number, Brahms' *Variations on a Theme by Paganini* revealed a depth of tone which was unexpected. This same dynamic strength was brilliantly displayed in Liszt's *Rhapsody No. 2.*

In the last group of more modern music were two Debussy selections, *Sérénade à la poupée* and *L'Isle joyeuse.* The last two numbers were impressionistic and by Albeniz, who was an outstanding composer in the recent revival of Spanish national music. These compositions were *Fête Dieu à Seville* and *Triana;* both were colorful and interesting and made one feel quite fortunate to be able to hear them interpreted by a native Spaniard.

M. B., '30.

MISS WILDER'S RECITAL

Monday evening, December 9, Miss Jean Wilder, of the Music Department, played for us. She opened her program with a group by Handel. Throughout the three pieces she displayed a good Handel style, playing with utmost ease, simplicity and without emotion. *The Prelude* from the Third Suite was notable for its arpeggi. The *Allemande* and *Sarabande* from the Eleventh Suite and the *Presto* from the Third Suite were played with precision, clearness and firmness.

The famous *Waldstein Sonata* of Beethoven came next. Miss Wilder overcame the technical difficulties and played it with ease and poise. Though she played with good contrast of color, the long composition became rather monotonous because of the lack of feeling. Miss Wilder's main interest seemed to be in the technical rather than in the expressive.

The third group started with Brahms' *Intermezzo,* Opus 119, No. 3, with which Miss Wilder showed a warmer style of playing. She executed the difficult middle part skillfully and played with more fire than heretofore. The next Chopin *Etude,* Opus 10, No. 7, again displayed good technical ability, but did not have much of a climax. The last number was a charming modern one, Griffes' *Scherzo.* The modal scales were well done and interesting and Miss Wilder played with strength and warmth.

M. M. K., '30.

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Mary Churchill, '98
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK

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Out From Dreams and Theories

CURRENT MAGAZINES AS SOURCES OF VOCATIONAL INFORMATION

Seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen! If you definitely expect to enter some one professional field after graduation, how many of you ever try to become familiar with the field by regular (or irregular) scanning of specialized periodicals? Or, if you are still trying to decide between several different fields of endeavor, do you make any effort to keep in touch with the newest developments in the various lines of work which interest you?

Many magazines of a general nature often contain splendid articles of professional interest to women. Besides these, a number of technical and professional journals are to be found in the college library.

A suggestive list of the more popular type of such magazines is printed below. Frequent consultation should be helpful!

Art
- American Magazine of Art
- Studio

Drama
- Theatre Arts

Education
- Journal of the National Education Association
- School and Society

Finance
- Commercial and Financial Chronicle

Journalism
- London Times Book Review
- Saturday Review of Literature

Library
- The Library Journal

Music
- Musical America
- Musical Time

Science
- Scientific American
- Science News Letter

Sociology
- American Journal of Sociology
- Survey Graphic

MODERN LITERARY INFLATION NEEDS NEW CRITICAL COINAGE

Comparing criticisms of modern masterpieces on the bookshelf and on the stage, Elmer Davis reaches the conclusion that although American dramaturgy is on the whole more competent today than ever before, American fiction has reached such an apogee of greatness as no art ever attained in the world's history. This stupendous conclusion he questions in an article in the current *Theatre Guild Magazine*, *Criticizing the Critics*.

"American literature does all the time what even the stock market can manage only now and then—it continually surpasses itself; it reaches every week a new height for all time. Read any book review. Peruse these reasoned verdicts . . . and see if it is not a more than golden age which offers such fare as—

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"'A modern prose *Hamlet*.'

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"'The richest assortment of human life since the *Canterbury Pilgrims*.'

"'The finest essay since Emerson.'

"'A calm and majestic epic.'

"Surely whoever contemplates this efflorescence of American letters must pity the poor Elizabethans who had to put up with Shakespeare and Marlowe; or the benighted Athenians who at their best had only Sophocles, Euripedes, Aristophanes and Herodotus to feed their appetites for literature.

Theatre Paltry by Contrast

"How paltry, by contrast, is the showing of the American theatre! Look through the theatrical advertising in that same Sunday paper in which American publishers offer a crop of masterpieces equal to the whole accumulation of all civilization past, and you will be disheartened by the paucity of greatness, except in the movies.

"'On the dramatic critics, I am convinced, must lie the major portion of the blame for this apparent inferiority of current plays to current novels. Some of them do their gallant best to froth at the mouth over a play that wins their approval, but in the main they are a pedestrian lot. They are content to call a good show good, without pronouncing it the greatest since *Hamlet* or *Agamemnon*.

"Yet, curiously enough, even the most enthusiastic reviewers of books hardly maintain that contemporary American literature, as a whole, is greater than Elizabethan literature, or Periclean, or Augustan; some of them might have qualms even about pronouncing it superior to the total output of the dead and damned Victorians. Regarding it in perspective, over a decade or so, they are apt to say that it has much originality, much vitality, much promise; but few of them would be ready to pronounce it, in toto, one of the great literatures of the world's history. Yet when they come to examine it in detail, they discover new *Hamlets*, new *Candides*, new *Don Quixotes* every Sunday. Something is wrong here. The addition does not come out right; the whole is smaller than the sum of its parts.

"Is it possible to restore something like a parity of exchange between literary and dramatic criticism, so that the same words will mean approximately the same thing, whether applied to a play or to a novel? The equation will be difficult, since the dramatic critic has considerably more latitude: he can talk about the players, the direction, the staging; he has far more opportunity to be precise and objective. Furthermore, whereas literary critics are mainly concerned with doing justice to the author, dramatic critics are more apt to be interested in doing justice to the customer. And playgoers seem to be more modest than book buyers in their expectations. They do not demand greatness, or at least an attempt at greatness in every play, as apparently the book buyers do.

"Great" Has been Devalued

"The adjective 'great,' which once meant something in literary criticism, has been devalued in the last ten years, just as were certain once respectable currencies of pre-war Europe. To say that a play is almost great is to give it praise; to say that a novel is almost great is almost to deny that it is a novel at all. So we need a word with the connotations that 'great' used to possess. Critics ought to get together, as did European financiers, and seriously set themselves to stabilize their currency. The time is ripe for some phonetic expert to invent a convenient, euphonious monosyllable which will be worth as much in literary criticism as the pre-war adjective 'great,' or 10,000 post-war greats, or 100 greatest-things-since-*Hamlets*. Then book-reviewing may come back to sanity, although the deflation of criticism may also deflate some imposing, at present, reputations."

ROADS NOT FOR PEDESTRIANS

To the Wellesley College News:

Has Wellesley a Suicide Club? The harrassed motorist and the startled spectator join in the query. To drive a car through the Campus is to experience a series of shocks to the nervous system which will, often enough repeated, finish off the driver as well as the girls who block her path. At Homestead Gate the motorist must slow down to five miles an hour to escape slaughtering two freshmen on bicycles who are either very uncertain of their balance or are training for a vaudeville act of freak bicycling. Where the lake path crosses the road beyond Homestead a snowball fight is in progress and the motorist escapes with a snowball on her right front window. But her troubles are by no means ended. All the way from Dower to Founders she must contend with the pedestrians who spurn the rustic charm of board-walks and keep to the wide open spaces of the road where it is possible to walk four-abreast unmolested, yes, because the motorist creeps along behind them, tooting her horn hopefully, and stopping dead in her tracks when the foursome pauses to exchange banter with an approaching group of "road-hogs" from Christmas-Tree-Alley way. From the Power House to the path which leads off to Mary Hemenway the motorist is confronted, this time by a whole army in the road. There is nothing so systematic as a formation of four-abreast. Stragglers trail along in isolated imperturbility in the center of the road, while somebody demonstrates a folk dance to an admiring circle on the right. The motorist takes to the left gutter where she barely misses two girls deep in confidences. The motorist slams on her brakes, skids, and finally negotiates the turn into Central Street, her hair on end, and her nerves shattered.

One of these days the motorist will lose that fine control which has thus far characterized her under such trials,—and woe betide the foursome that blocks her path!

No one thinks of walking down the middle of the road on Central Street or Washington Street. There are plenty of sidewalks on campus. Why not show that you "know your place," keep on the sidewalks, give the motorist a chance, and save your skins?

D. K. C., '29.

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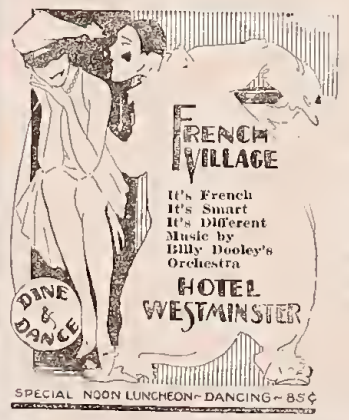

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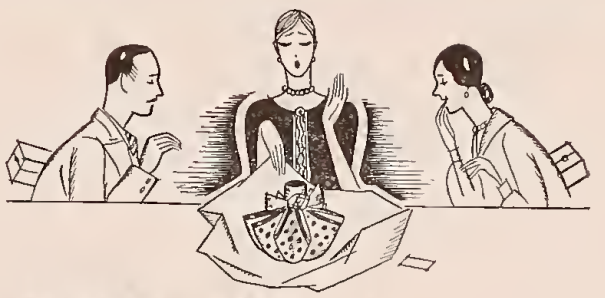
make this a GADGETLESS CHRISTMAS!
We're glad to see that gadget-buyers seem to be less in evidence this year than formerly, but there are bound to be the late-comers who invariably leave their gift selecting until the last minute. Quite unnecessary is it, however, to select some useless nick-nack because of lack of time—for is there not a Thayer McNeil shop right in the "Vil," replete with gifts for every age and temperament! Practical things are here for women and misses, men, boys and children. Make these last precious shopping hours count by paying a visit to our Wellesley Store, 572 Washington St.
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BIBLIOFILE

King Spider, by D. B. Wyndham Lewis. Coward-McCann, Inc., New York.

Mr. Lewis has chosen the name of his book from a work of Jehan Molinet, who calls Louis XI, "the universal spider," but the title seems unfortunate in that it raises up again the picture of Louis which the author is seeking to explain and partially disprove. Through the pages of our romantic novels and across the stage of our dramas has stalked the sinister figure of Louis. This, Mr. Lewis has recognized as unjust, and as a result he has written, not a biography of Louis, but what he calls, *Some Aspects of Louis XI of France and His Companions.*

The reader on finishing the book does not sit back with a chronological view of Louis' life, development and achievements. If each page were to have the date of the year in which the events which it records occurred, the dates would go almost in circles. Chronicling the author has left to other historians. As he declares in his Prefatory Note, he believes that "to know that Robespierre was not only foppish in dress but finicking in his manner of eating oranges, which he took great pride in peeling with one hand is to increase one's stock of understanding of the temperament of that frigid fanatic and sophist, and to provide one more key to the significance of others of his preferences more laden with consequence for hisory." In this attitude Mr. Lewis has entered the Fifteenth Century with which he is already so familiar because of his searches for all traces of that elusive poet, Francois Villon. Throughout the village he goes, watching the apprentices at their work, avoiding the mud and dirt in the street, and once reaching a town in time to see the people emerge from the fortified protection of their town's walls to rejoice over the truce with the Swiss. He sees the divine influence of the enthusiasm, energy, and keen intelligence of the Maid of Orleans and traces the rewaking of France which she in her dreams began on through the life of Louis.

Thus it is that Louis does not emerge as the cruel and crafty tyrant of history. The author watches him as he, while still the Dauphin, impatiently waits to take the control into his own hands and proves and trains his executive ability by his rule of the provinces. It is the recognition and respect for this administrative power that is one of the interesting things to see in the *Memoirs* of Commynes, that close friend and aid of Louis, who recognized so well the power and purpose of the king. At a time when Louis was ill he wrote, "We made little haste to do anything in the matter, but awaited the end of his malady: for he was a master with whom it behooved one to drive straight." This was an impressive tribute to pay, and when one considers it, charges of trickery and cruelty made against Louis sink into minor significance, and the man emerges as a King of France who gave of his all to build up the fabric of his state.

But Louis does not stand alone in the book. It is as if the reader had himself walked down the streets and roads of medieval France, now seeing the dust of a band of robbers, now the rich splendor of the Duke of Burgundy, now speaking with an honest townsman, now being splashed with the mud from the passing of one of the spies of the king, and now standing in wonder watching the sunset light up the glass in the great rose window of a church, while from within come the sweet, high strains of songs in praise of Our Lady.

A. P. K., '31.

Freshmen Illusions Shattered by Terrible Truth of Stories Spread by Upperclassmen

Since those first hectic days of freshman bewilderment, this reporter has listened with most satisfying credulity to every kind of tale spun out for her by kind upperclassmen. She has been told about strange rules and practices at Wellesley. She has heard vague rumors about housemothers, faculty, in fact, all Important People. She has been gullible and trusting, but now in desperation rebels.

The first illusion shattered is that never did kind alumnae donate certain money to Noanett or any other freshman house for the everlasting preservation of the inevitable marmalade pot. Nor was Fiske's remarkable cook ever subsidized for the purpose of continuing the high grade of food served there. The only truth is the tale that once upon a time, a Mr. Fiske donated a fund for beautifying the quad, in memory of his daughter, a student in Wellesley, who was especially interested in botany. This money, after having beautified the quad, now has made possible the lovely terrace and stream in the meadow back of Fiske. Though even yet, we don't see the connection between jam pots and landscape gardening, even in a rumor.

Again our innocence has been exploited. It was solemnly told that at a yearly gathering of housemothers, a substantial prize was awarded to the one with the most economical budget for feeding her house. We are happy to say this is untrue. Quite the opposite is true, for there is no desire to stint or cut in planning the meals, and a number of the housemothers have studied foods, and have done graduate work in dietetics.

We also heard that the college pays a tremendous sum, $100, or even $1,000, for each holiday on which it keeps open. This also is false, for the college opens or is closed as it pleases.

But when it came to rumors of faculty "pro," there we listened and learned. Of course there is no faculty "pro," but a committee on marks checks up on the grades given by the faculty, reminding some of them, that not too many are to be flunked. It is nice to have the balance kept this way.

Of course in freshman days, we were all told about the saltpeter which is supposedly put into food and water, and served to freshmen. However, with superior intelligence, even in our freshman days, we suspected this for what it is, an untruth.

Recently, there has gone the rounds another rumor which students and faculty alike have told, for absolute truth. This is that Sothern's non-appearance a fortnight ago was due in part, to pressure brought to bear by the Boston Junior League. The Junior League, however, had nothing to do with his absence here. They were only insisting that his engagement with them be kept.

Thus the Junior League's fair name is kept pure, our housemothers' plans are happily divulged, and even the health of our freshmen is looked into by the final tracing of these startling rumors.

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!

★

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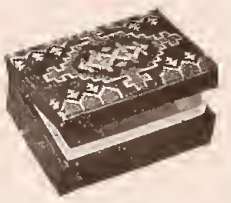

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BILL, THE COP, GIVES FAMOUS THEORY OF FRESHMEN MOANING

"Once upon a time," said Bill the Policeman, "There were three little freshmen, who had three little bicycles—"

"Stop!" we said, "We don't want to hear any more stories about little freshmen. They aren't exciting, and any way, it makes the freshmen self-conscious to hear so much about themselves. They think they're funny. We want you to tell us a really *good* story."

"No," said Bill, "The college authorities wouldn't like me to do that. As I was saying, once upon a time there were three little freshmen who had three little bicycles, and they used to ride them up to classes every day. Well one day—Wait a minute. *Do you hear that moan?"*

We thought it was the Hunnewell's dog, but never mind. "Go on," we said.

"I'll get to that moan in a minute. One day those three little freshmen went out into the back yard, as they do in the village, you know, to get their bicycles, and what do you suppose?"

We didn't know.

"Those bicycles were gone!"

"Oh," we said, just like that, without any exclamation point.

"Well," said Bill, "that's why you hear that moaning. *It's those three freshmen mourning for their bicycles,* and they can't be comforted. Every evening at just this hour, you can hear their long drawn out howl. It's enough to give you the creeps."

"Is that all the story? Didn't they ever find the bicycles?"

"That is the most important part of the story—the rest isn't so good. The Natick police found the bicycles and so they notified the Wellesley police, who notified me. And so I notified the Information Bureau, and they notified the official Sign Poster, and the Official Sign Poster finally posted a sign by the El table. But it didn't make any difference. One of the freshmen went and claimed hers, but the rest were too wasted away with grief to do anything. That's why you can still hear them moan. Gradually they will become disembodied spirits, and haunt bicycle racks. And on windy nights people will shiver and say, *'Listen, I hear the three freshmen moaning for their bicycles, and they will not be comforted!'* "

ALUMNAE NOTES

Engaged

'20 Barbara Wilson to Mr. Harold T. Sears.

Married

'18 Margaret Howe to Mr. J. Bennett Hill, October 24.

'21 Marjorie Twitchell to Mr. Dyke Lewis Quackenbush.

'23 R. Josephine Brown to Mr. Robert Briggs Barclay, October 19.

'26 Charlotte Denny to Mr. Donald Marion Pillsbury.

Born

Ex '20 To Elizabeth **Howe** Putney, a daughter and second child, Eleanor, October 30.

'20 To Frances **Galpin** Thomson, a third child, in October.

'22 To Jean **Ashton** Eldred, a son, Kenneth McKetchnie, November 25.

ETHICS OF FOREIGN MANNERS A CONTRAST TO U. S. COURTESY

Just what constitutes good manners, and a rather general comparison of the manners of the English and the Americans is the subject of Mary Borden's discussion on *Manners* in the December *Harpers Monthly.* Good manners have changed with the changing times, but only in form, but in duration. One cannot "curtsey in a tight skirt," nor has one time in this rushing, whirling world to make a prolonged bow. The young people of today have no patience with the "elaborate insincerity" of yesterday. Sincerity, simplicity, brevity they demand in their vigorous and gallant life. The essence of good manners is the ability to put people at their ease, and that of bad manners is the faculty of making everyone uncomfortable by an excess of cordiality or an extreme lack of it. The American is too likely to be excessive, the Englishman too taciturn. In the French bourgeosisle these two tendencies meet a happy medium. Unfortunately, the English middle class lacks polish and imagination, and America can offer no distinct class at all.

To the Englishman, good form is more than good manners, and it may often allow great rudeness. As a whole the English lack the curiosity necessary for good manners, for curiosity means sympathy and interest in others. Being very modest and disliking intensely to show off, they don't want to show emotion and don't care to please, and hence their apparent boredom. But this indifference, although it may be *Comme il faut* at home, has no place among strangers, for it creates a strained atmosphere. Is not the test of good manners one's behaviour among strangers? A sense of superiority, of self-sufficiency, is partly responsible for the "blank, classic stare" of the Englishman.

The manners of the great English lady—at home—are all to be desired of her or anyone else. She is at ease everywhere and succeeds in making everyone at home with her. She is contained but not restrained. Back of her rigid training for such a manner, lies a sense of responsibility that makes her exert herself. There is no real desire to please. She feels herself under obligation to the inhabitants of her community, and consequently, treats each one in exactly the right way. But take her out of her set and place her among strangers. She has no connection with them, no responsibility for them; she may be very rude to them. She is satisfied with her own little world and feels no need to exert herself outside of it.

The American woman, on the other hand, is a sociable creature, desiring amusement, admiration, and distraction. She constantly strives to please, that she may be popular. To be alone is unheard of. She would be bored with the quiet life of her English sister, her many lonely evenings. And the English woman thinks American life utterly senseless. Such mad rushing is foolish. She cannot understand that anyone should make friends because she feels like it. It doesn't occur to her that American hospitality is genuine interest in her welfare. She cannot appreciate it because she lacks the qualities that constitute it.

LAST YEAR'S BARN STARS ACT IN CLEVELAND PERFORMANCES

Of great interest in Alumnae achievements is the dramatic work that Theodate Johnson and Kay Cast, both members of 1929, are doing in Cleveland this winter at the Cleveland Playhouse.

They are members of the Student Staff of the Playhouse company and so far this winter have had parts in three plays.

It was a happy coincidence that the play chosen for Cleveland's annual "Wellesley Night" under the auspices of that city's Wellesley Club was Molnar's "Olympia" a comedy in which Kay Cast took the part of the Countess Lina. The other parts in the play were all taken by members of the regular staff. Miss Cast writes that "it is not half so thrilling as playing before a barn audience."

CO-EDUCATION HELPS GIRLS TO CHOOSE RIGHT HUSBAND

The value of co-educational schools as a medium to help young women in choosing their future husbands was stressed in an interview by Dr. Anna Y. Reed, professor of Personnel Administration at the School of Education of New York University. Dr. Reed also advised any girls wishing to get married to attend a co-ed institution.

"If a girl wants to get married, and, of course she should, then she ought to go to a co-ed school where she will meet a lot of men," said Dr. Reed. "In a co-educational college, she will meet all types of men and learn just which type she gets along best with. Then, whether she marries a college mate or not, she will have something to guide her when she finally makes her choice."

Dr. Reed, herself a graduate of the University of Nebraska, a co-educational school, and married, believes that a girl should have an opportunity to compare herself mentally with a man before she decides to marry him.

"Normally," suggested Dr. Reed, "a girl does not have this opportunity. She meets a man only at social functions when he is primed for the occasion: She never sees his dirty finger nails. She does not know whether he is at heart a spendthrift or a miser, and what is more important, she is ignorant of his disposition.

"By being his classmate, the girl will have a chance to observe him when he knows nothing about it. She can learn his bad qualities as well as his good ones, and by meeting him day after day she will be able to determine whether he will 'wear well' or not.

"If a girl has attended a co-educational secondary school it is not so important that she continue her education in a mixed college. If she finds that the presence of men interferes with her class work, then a segregated college is advisable. She should however have contacts with men in her youth, so that she will be better suited to determine what type of man is best suited to her.

"Quite often, too, women who have not had many beaux before they graduate from college feel rather self-sufficient and are inclined to the opinion that a husband would be little more than a bother. At 35 they begin to realize that they have missed a great part of life because of this attitude.

"Women are more and more entering into the field of business where they must have a knowledge of man and his standards. Men have an entirely different viewpoint from women, there is more give and take in them. By becoming acquainted with them in her college days, a woman is better able to make adjustments in her later business life.

"Both segregated and co-educational colleges have their peculiar advantages and we are looking forward to the time when we will be able to tabulate and measure them to determine which is preferable in the long run. As yet there is no scientific way of finding out which plan is best for an individual."

—From *The New York Times.*

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